

## John Coffee to Andrew Jackson, December 18, 1813, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

### JOHN COFFEE TO JACKSON.

Huntsville, December 18, 1813

*Dear Sir* , Your Order of the 16th Inst. I this moment recd by Mr. White, directing me to detain my Brigade untill further orders, which will be attended to, before the rect. of which I had infered from your last, that your determination was to make one bold effort before the expiration of service of the Et. Tennesseans and for that purpose you would want the mounted men under my command. I had in consequence thereof Ordered my Brigade to march directly on to you without delay, and the line of march for that purpose was taken up early this morning from Dittoes landing, information of which I gave you by express. I will order my command to encamp at Fort deposit, and there await your order.

How long I can continue the men under my command I cannot pretend to say. I very much expect when the volunteer Cavalry meet the Infantry they will return with them, but should they not turn now, I do suppose that the whole of my Brigade will claim their discharge on the 24th. Inst. the Rifle Regt. have notified me to that effect and I am advised by my most confidential officers that they are determined to break off on that day at all events, and when that Regt. breaks the Cavalry is certain to follow. Is it possible to do any thing with men whose minds are thus prepared—I fear not—at all events I think it would not do to rely on them, notwithstanding your just claim. . . .